

SPAWN

Capullo

McFarlane



88

DIGITAL EDITION

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TODD McFARLANE AND IMAGE COMICS PRESENT...

SEASONS OF CHANGE

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SPAWN 87 Summary

Ethan Crone, accused by his editor of being obsessed by Spawn, interviews people from all walks of life around the city who may have witnessed Spawn and his mysterious ways. When he actually tries to spend the night in the Rat City alleys, Cog tells him that there is no Spawn and there never was: he was simply a ghost story told around the bonfires in the alleys.



TODD McFARLANE
PRODUCTIONS



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My name is MARY.
I am in deep, dark TROUBLE.

Seth locked me in my room so
I could think about what I did.

He says
if Mommie
and me
want to live
under his
roof, we
have to
respect his
rules.

I can't expect to grow up
right if I don't learn respect.

This is for my own good.
It's the only way
I will learn.

If I don't straighten
up, I will be nothing
but a dirty, no-good
SLUT, no better than a
dog. That's what
he told momma.

Tonight I will get my
PUNISHMENT. Seth said when
the FIGHTS are over, he's going
to teach me a lesson.

Until then,
I am to wait
here and keep
my smart
mouth shut.

I'm sorry I was so BAD.

NEED A
TAKE A
LEAK...

The fights started a little bit ago.
I can hear Seth saying bad
words to the TV.

It's his TV and he
paid good money
for it, and no one
has the right to
touch it but him.

Footsteps...

HEY, LITTLE
MISSY. I HOPE
YOU'RE THINKING
LONG AND HARD
ABOUT WHAT
YOU DID.

YOUR
MOMMA'S
WORKING THE
LATE SHIFT
TONIGHT, SO
SHE WON'T BE
AROUND TO
HELP YOU
NONE.

I AIN'T
GONNA HAVE NO
SPOILT LITTLE CRY-BABIES
IN MY HOUSE. YOU START
SHOWIN' A LITTLE GRATITUDE
OR YOU AND YOUR OLD
LADY'RE OUT ON YOUR
ASS. YOU GOT
THAT?

I hold tight to my Molly,
and wish momma was here.
But if she was here, she'd
probably get a whupping too.

I don't want
mommy to get
hurt for some-
thing I did.

YES,
SIR.

I have
to take my
medicine
like a
big girl.

I'm supposed to
sit here, all alone,
and think about
my actions. Only
thing is...

*I don't think I'm
ALONE anymore.*



EVER HAVE THE FEELING THAT YOU'RE WALKING INTO YOUR OWN FUNERAL? OR THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SIT DOWN TO A MEAL WHERE YOU'RE THE MAIN COURSE?

THAT'S PRETTY MUCH HOW I FEEL RIGHT NOW.

AH, GOOD EVENING, SIR. YOUR PARTY IS WAITING.

THANK YOU.

HERE WE ARE, SIR.

THE OAK ROOM AT THE PLAZA. ONE OF THE FINEST RESTAURANTS IN THE HEMISPHERE. AT THIS MOMENT, I'D RATHER BE ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

STRAIGHT OFF, THE ANGELIC TWIT TRIES TO MAKE FRIENDS. TYPICAL.

COUNT **COGLIOSTRO**, I PRESUME. IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

I AM **AMBASSADOR EPIPHANI**. I HAVE BEEN SENT TO REPRESENT THE SERAPHIC ASSEMBLY. PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.

LISTEN, MY DEAR GIRL. IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT WE HAVE TO BE HERE. LET'S NOT MAKE IT WORSE BY PRETENDING TO LIKE EACH OTHER.

AS YOU WISH.

SO, WHOM DO YOU THINK HE'LL BE SENDING? I HOPE IT'S NOT ONE OF THOSE AWFUL **PHLEBIAC BROTHERS**.

NO. NOT FOR THIS. MY GUESS IS HE'LL SEND ONE OF THE **THIRSTING BARONS**, OR PERHAPS THE **LORD OF WHISPERS**.

BUT WHOEVER HE'S SENDING, HE'S **LATE**.

AFTER A FEW MINUTES OF AWKWARD, MIND-NUMBING SILENCE, A RUMBLE BEGINS TO PASS THROUGH THE CROWD.

AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS A MOVIE STAR ARRIVING, OR PERHAPS ONE OF THOSE IDIOT BILLIONAIRES ONE ALWAYS SEES IN THE NEWSPAPERS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES. THIS IS MUCH WORSE THAN I EVER IMAGINED. I DON'T THINK THE POOR GIRL WAS PREPARED FOR THIS, EITHER.

I'M AFRAID IT IS...

BY THE BLESSED CHALICE! IT CAN'T BE...

SHE AND I WERE BOTH WRONG. HE DIDN'T SEND ANYONE TO SPEAK FOR HIM. INSTEAD, HE SHOWED UP HIMSELF.

COGLIOSTRO, EPIPHANI. GOOD EVENING. I APOLOGIZE FOR MY TARDINESS. I WAS HELD UP IN CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS. COULDN'T BE HELPED.

WELL THEN, SHALL WE GET DOWN TO IT?

"Think long and hard about what you did, Mary."

"This is for your own good, Mary."

I didn't mean it. Honest.

It was an accident. But that's no excuse for my sorry attitude.

If I can't respect other people's things, then maybe I don't deserve to LIVE in a nice place like this.

I was just so HAPPY.

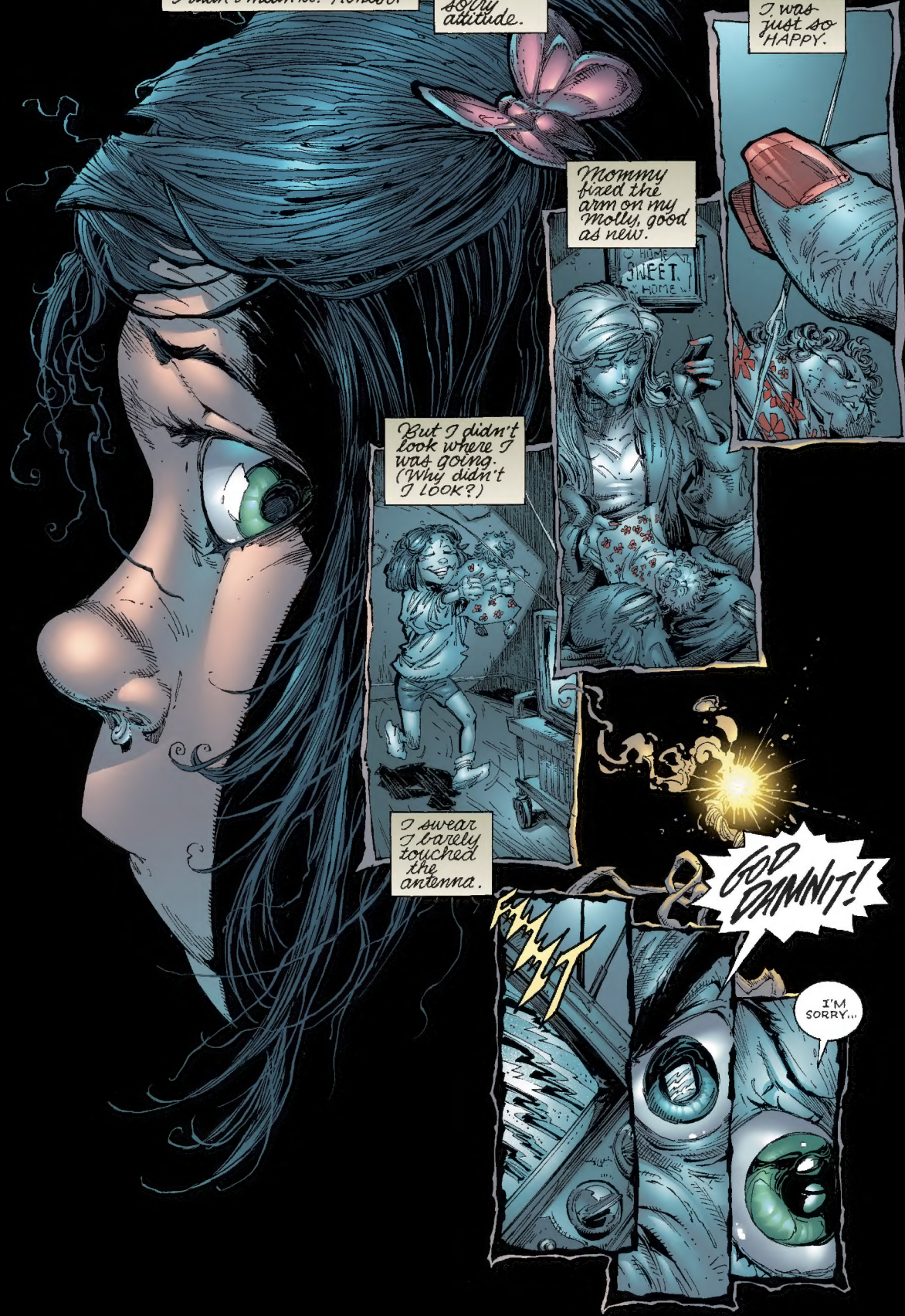
Mommy fixed the arm on my Molly, good as new.

But I didn't look where I was going. (Why didn't I LOOK?)

I swear I barely touched the antenna.

GOD DAMNIT!

I'M SORRY...



**YOU
LITTLE BITCH!
WHAT THE HELL
DID YOU JUST
DO?!**

YOU
KNOW
I WAS
WATCHING
THAT! YOU
DID THAT ON
PURPOSE!

NO!
I DIDN'T
MEAN IT!
OWW!

I DON'T
ASK FOR MUCH
IN THIS GODDAMN
WORLD! AFTER
BUSTING MY HUMP
ALL DAY, ALLS I
WANT IS TO SIT IN
FRONT OF THE TUBE
IN PEACE! IS
THAT SO MUCH
TO ASK?

BUT NO,
YOU GOTTA GO
AND *RUIN* THAT
TOO, YOU SPOILED
LITTLE PIECE OF
TRASH!

SETH,
STOP IT!
IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT!

ACCIDENT
MY ASS! THAT'S
NO EXCUSE FOR
HER SORRY
ATTITUDE.

I'M SICK
AND TIRED
OF GETTING
NO RESPECT
IN MY OWN
HOUSE!

WHAT DID
I TELL YOU
ABOUT THAT
TV? WHAT DID
I TELL YOU?!

I WANT
YOU TO THINK
LONG AND HARD ABOUT
WHAT YOU DID. AND I
DON'T WANT TO HEAR A
PEEP OUT OF YOU TILL I
FIGURE OUT WHAT YOUR
PUNISHMENT IS
GOING TO BE.

IS THAT
CLEAR?

YES,
SIR.

NEVER TO
TOUCH IT.

THAT'S
GODDAMN
RIGHT. IT'S
MY TV.
I PAID FOR
IT! NOT
YOU!

That was three days ago.

I wanted to cry, but I was afraid, Seth would hear me. I tried to sleep, but I was too scared for that, too.

I guess maybe Seth doesn't like kids. I think he had kids before and had to send them AWAY. That was before Mommy and me moved in.

I saw an old picture on Seth's dresser once, but Mommy told me never, EVER to bring them up again.

I always wondered what happened to them. Like where they went and stuff. And if where they are was better than here.

On the second night, I think I found them.

They were hiding in my closet the whole time. Funny, I'd never seen them there before.

They couldn't talk and they were shaking real bad. When I turned on the light, they were gone.

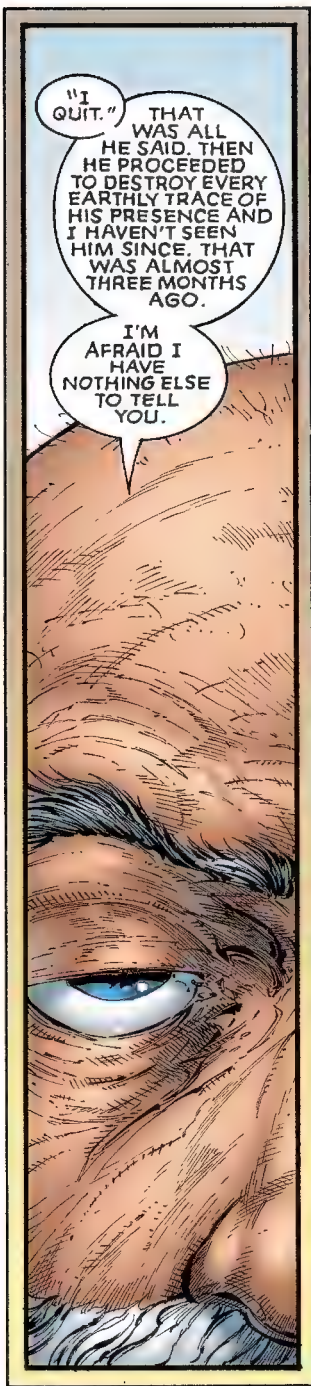
Maybe I was just dreaming. But I don't think so.

The next night, SOMEONE NEW came to visit me.

HE'S still out there.

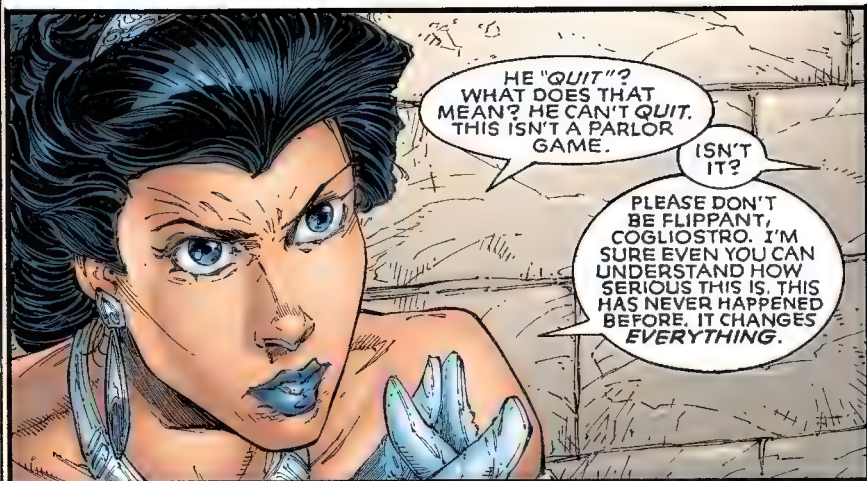
The man in the RED CAPE.





"I QUIT." THAT WAS ALL HE SAID. THEN HE PROCEEDED TO DESTROY EVERY EARTHLY TRACE OF HIS PRESENCE AND I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE. THAT WAS ALMOST THREE MONTHS AGO.

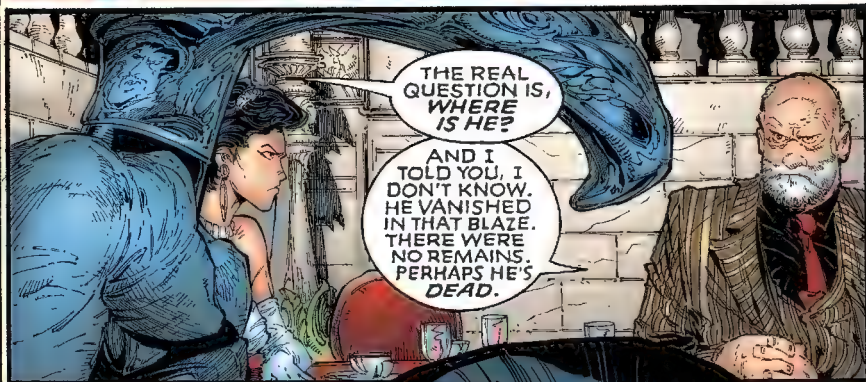
I'M AFRAID I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO TELL YOU.



HE "QUIT"? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? HE CAN'T QUIT. THIS ISN'T A PARLOR GAME.

ISN'T IT?

PLEASE DON'T BE FLIPPANT, COGLIOSTRO. I'M SURE EVEN YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS THIS IS. THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE. IT CHANGES EVERYTHING.



THE REAL QUESTION IS, WHERE IS HE?

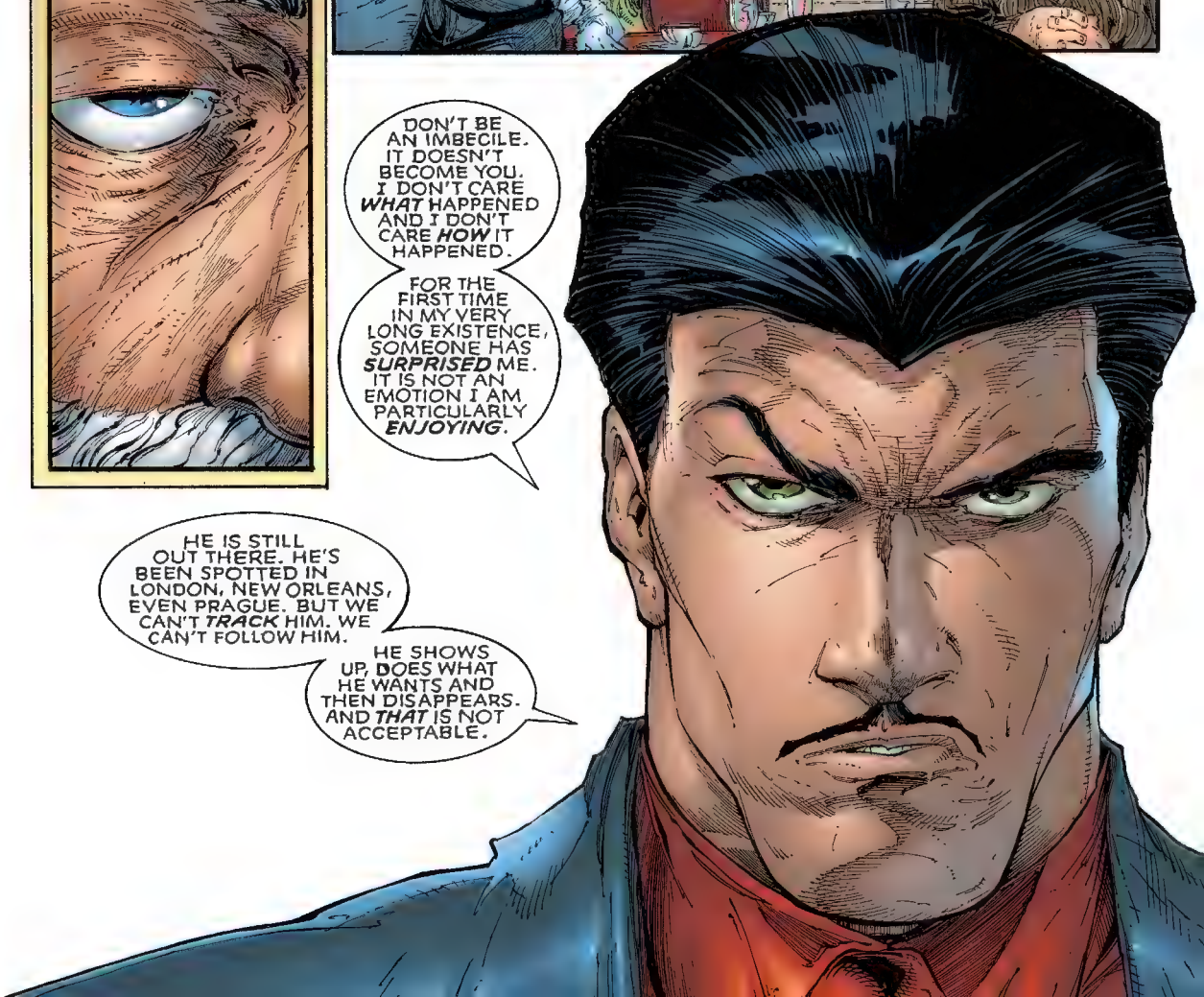
AND I TOLD YOU, I DON'T KNOW. HE VANISHED IN THAT BLAZE. THERE WERE NO REMAINS. PERHAPS HE'S DEAD.

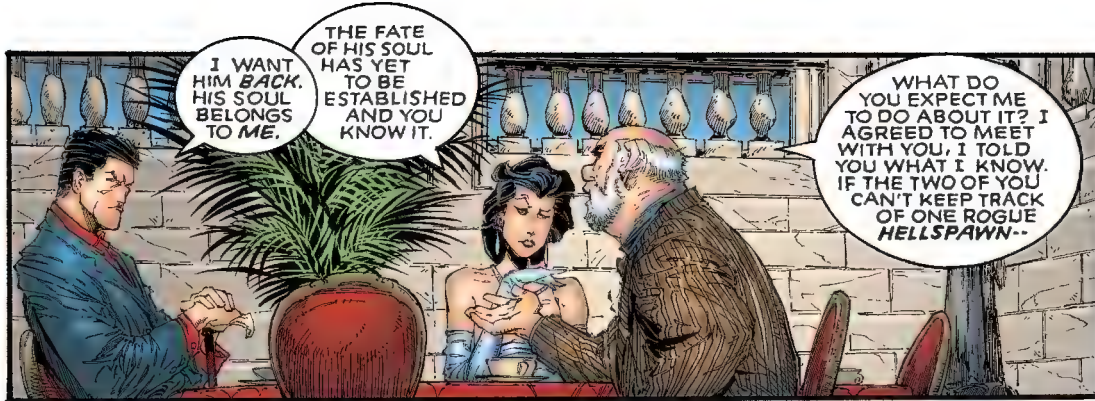
DON'T BE AN IMBECILE. IT DOESN'T BECOME YOU. I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED AND I DON'T CARE HOW IT HAPPENED.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY VERY LONG EXISTENCE, SOMEONE HAS SURPRISED ME. IT IS NOT AN EMOTION I AM PARTICULARLY ENJOYING.

HE IS STILL OUT THERE. HE'S BEEN SPOTTED IN LONDON, NEW ORLEANS, EVEN PRAGUE. BUT WE CAN'T TRACK HIM. WE CAN'T FOLLOW HIM.

HE SHOWS UP, DOES WHAT HE WANTS AND THEN DISAPPEARS. AND THAT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.





I WANT HIM BACK. HIS SOUL BELONGS TO ME.

THE FATE OF HIS SOUL HAS YET TO BE ESTABLISHED AND YOU KNOW IT.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO ABOUT IT? I AGREED TO MEET WITH YOU, I TOLD YOU WHAT I KNOW. IF THE TWO OF YOU CAN'T KEEP TRACK OF ONE ROGUE HELLSPAWN--



I'M SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. WOULD YOU CARE TO START OFF WITH A COCKTAIL?

I KNOW I WOULD.



EXCUSE ME FOR BEING SO BOLD, BUT MAY I ASK YOUR NAME, DEAR?

CARYN. WITH A "C" AND "Y".

IT'S A LOVELY NAME. A LOVELY NAME FOR A LOVELY GIRL. I'M SURE I'M NOT THE FIRST TO TELL YOU YOU SHOULD BE A MODEL. OR A MOVIE STAR, PERHAPS.

I CAN SEE YOU HAVING QUITE A FUTURE IN HOLLYWOOD. FAME, FORTUNE, ROMANCE... IT'S SOMETHING YOU'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF, ISN'T IT?



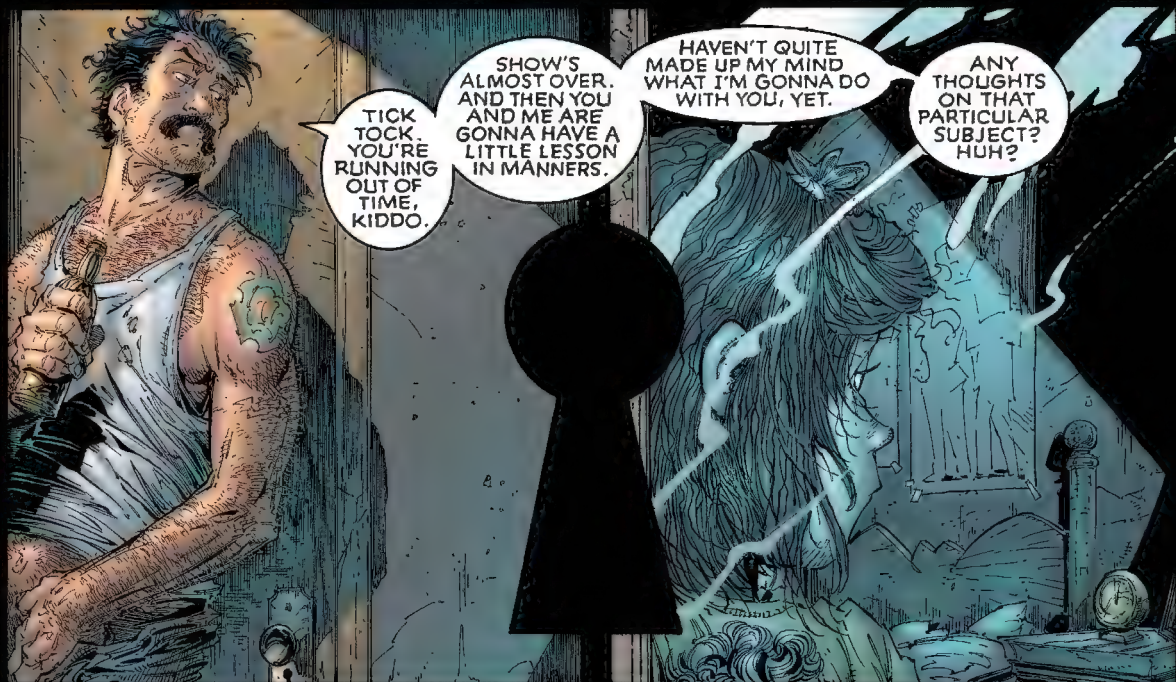
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO PULL A FEW STRINGS NOW AND AGAIN. I'M SURE WE COULD COME TO AN ARRANGEMENT...

WELL, THAT'S VERY SWEET OF YOU TO SAY, SIR.



EXCUSE ME, MISS, BUT IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, YOU'LL JUST TAKE OUR ORDERS, SMILE POLITELY AND IGNORE EVERY WORD THIS GENTLEMAN UTTERS. I HOPE THAT'S CLEAR.

YES, MA'AM.

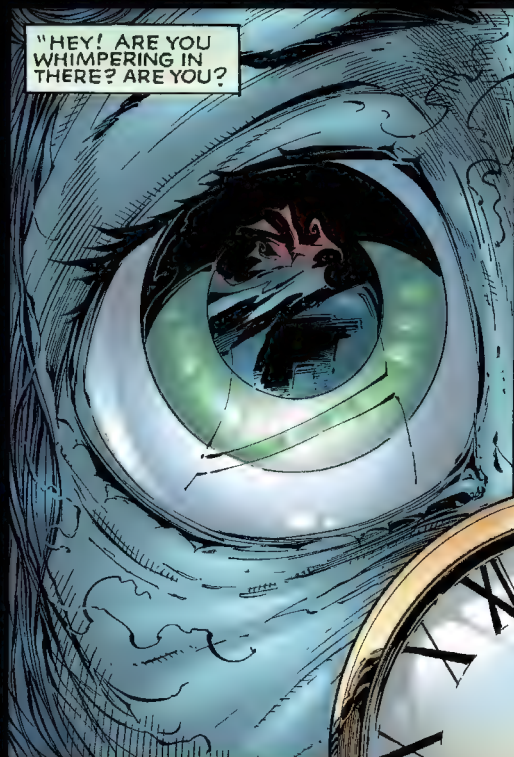


TICK
TOCK.
YOU'RE
RUNNING
OUT OF
TIME,
KIDDO.

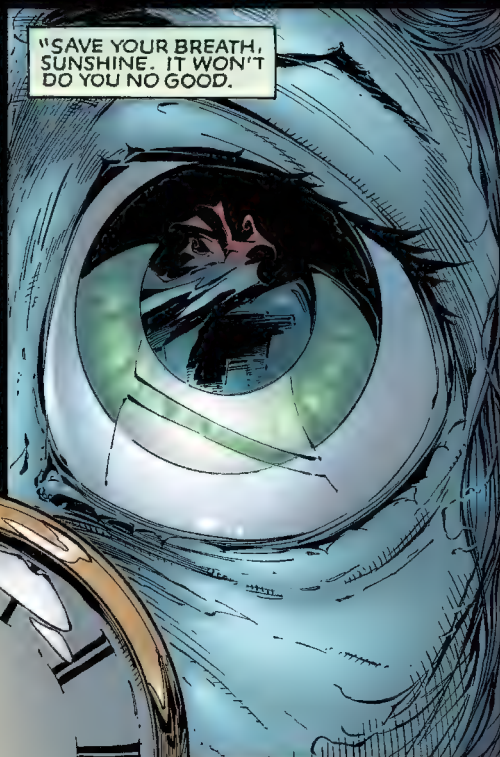
SHOW'S
ALMOST OVER.
AND THEN YOU
AND ME ARE
GONNA HAVE A
LITTLE LESSON
IN MANNERS.

HAVEN'T QUITE
MADE UP MY MIND
WHAT I'M GONNA DO
WITH YOU, YET.

ANY
THOUGHTS
ON THAT
PARTICULAR
SUBJECT?
HUH?



"HEY! ARE YOU
WHIMPERING IN
THERE? ARE YOU?"



"SAVE YOUR BREATH,
SUNSHINE. IT WON'T
DO YOU NO GOOD.



"THIS TIME YOU'RE GONNA
FACE THE CONSEQUENCES
OF YOUR ACTIONS. DON'T
THINK YOU CAN TALK YOUR
WAY OUTTA THIS ONE, LIKE
YOU DO WITH YOUR MOMMA.

"THIS TIME I GOT YOU
ALL TO MYSELF. AIN'T
NO ONE COMING TO
YOUR RESCUE."

STUPID
BITCH.

*Momma says
she's sorry
about the way
Seth can be.*

WHAT
THE
HELL...?

*But deep down she says he's a
good man and he loves us.*

HEY
KID, WAS
THAT
YOU?

CREAK

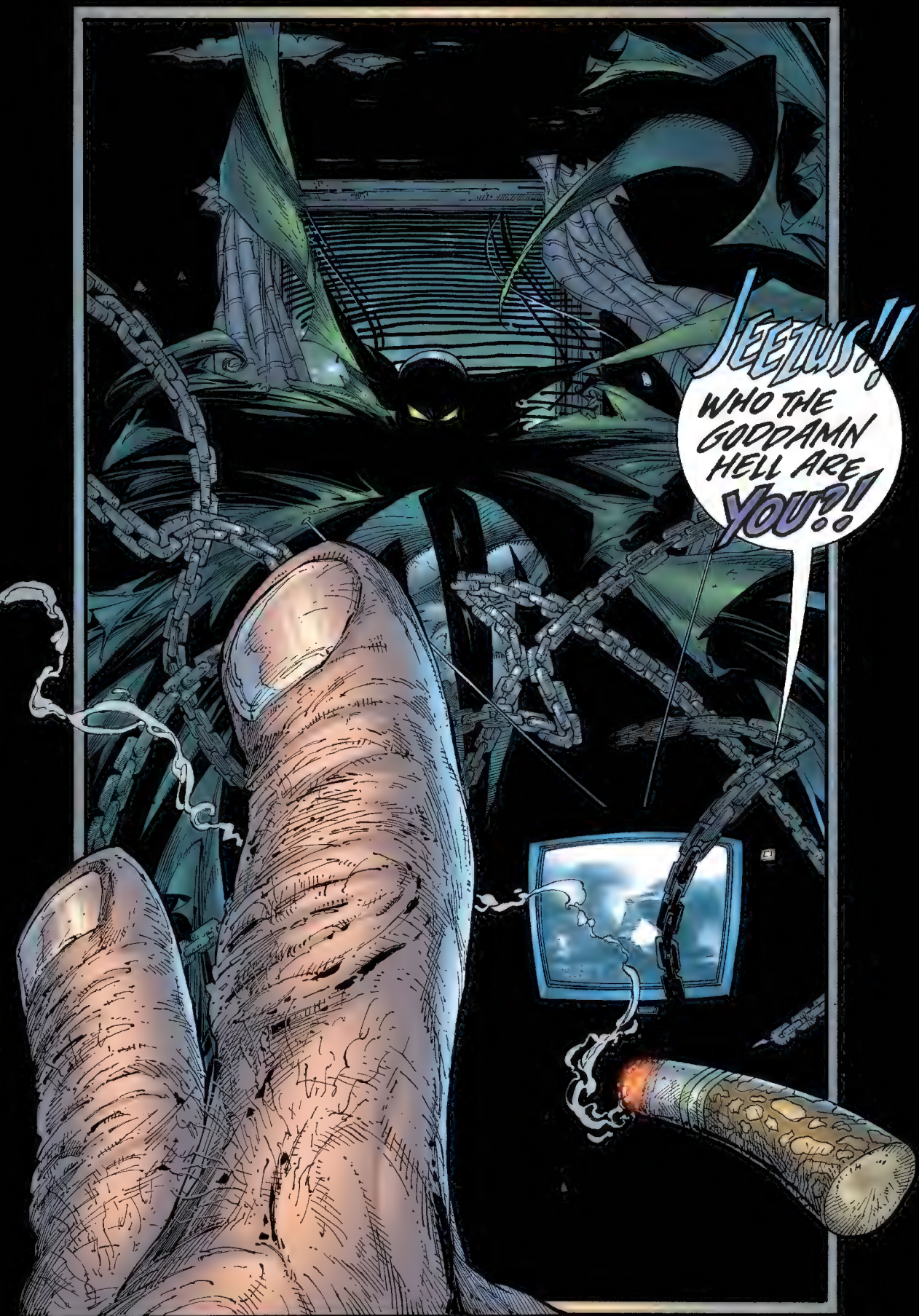
YOU BETTER
NOT BE OUT OF YOUR
ROOM. YOU'RE IN
ENOUGH TROUBLE AS
IT IS. I SWEAR TO
GOD, IF YOU'RE
DISOBEYING
ME...

*That's why
he's so hard
on me. He
only wants
what's best
for me.*

*I've got to learn that
the world doesn't revolve
around me. I'll never
make anything of myself
if I don't shape up.*

*He's only trying
to teach me a
LESSON.*

Huh?



Oh no! There's
SOMETHING out there.
I can hear it.
Like chains rattling.

HURMPHH!

The MAN IN
THE RED CAPE.
It has to be.

He's come
for ME.
Because
I've been
so BAD.

Seth told me some-
times the BOOGIE MAN
comes in the night
and takes naughty
little girls away and
chops them up for
being disrespectful.

He said he
was coming
for me, but
I didn't
believe him.

I don't want to
be chopped up.
I'm so SCARED.
Why didn't I
just look where
I was going?

I want my
mommy. I want
Seth. Anybody.

I want my
Molly.

Where
is she?

Where's
my
MOLLY?!

DELIGHTFUL.
HOW WAS
YOURS?

YOU SHOULD
SEE YOUR FACES.
YOU LOOK LIKE
A DOG RAN AWAY
WITH YOUR FOOT-
BALL AND NOW
YOU CAN'T *PLAY*
ANYMORE.

YOU'VE BEEN
DRINKING TOO
MUCH, COGLIOSTRO.
A COMMON HUMAN
WEAKNESS. I'D
HAVE THOUGHT
YOU ABOVE IT.

Ah, BUT YOU KNOW
I'M *RIGHT*. SPAWN WAS
THE CENTERPIECE OF YOUR
LITTLE *ARMAGEDDON*.
WITHOUT HIM, YOU'RE
RATHER UP A TREE,
AREN'T YOU?

TO BE
HONEST, I WASN'T
SURE HE HAD IT IN
HIM. BUT I SAY, GOOD
FOR HIM. BRAVO,
SPAWN! IT'S ABOUT
TIME SOMEONE
TAUGHT YOU ARRO-
GANT TOSSERS A
LESSON, SHOOK
YOU UP A BIT.

DO NOT
MAKE LIGHT
OF THE SITUATION.
WE ARE TALKING
ABOUT AN
ENORMOUSLY
DELICATE BALANCE
OF POWER. WE
ARE TALKING
ABOUT THE
WILL OF
GOD!

WELL,
PERHAPS
THE WILL OF
GOD ISN'T QUITE
WHAT IT USED
TO BE.

ENOUGH!

I HAVE LOST MY
PATIENCE WITH YOU! YOU
ARE NOTHING BUT A
PATHETIC SPECK ON
THE SCALES OF
CREATION.

NOW, YOU
HAD BETTER
START COMING UP
WITH SOME *REAL*
ANSWERS, OR BY
THE HOSTS OF
DARKNESS, I
SWEAR I SHALL
VENT MY WRATH
ON YOU!

DON'T
THREATEN ME,
FRIEND. YOU
KNOW I AM
OFF-LIMITS. A
DEAL'S A DEAL.
EVEN WITH
YOU.

IS THAT
A FACT?

AND HERE I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE NO LONGER PLAYING BY THE RULES.

I WASH MY HANDS OF YOU, COGLIOSTRO. YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN NOW, AND I FEAR YOU WILL FIND NO HARBOR TO GIVE YOU SHELTER.

I WANT THE **HELLSPAWN**. I WANT WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE. IF YOU CANNOT DELIVER HIM WITHIN A FORTNIGHT, I PROMISE YOU THE **CHARGES OF HELL** WILL HOUND YOU TO THE ENDS OF **CREATION**.

DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?



GOOD NIGHT.

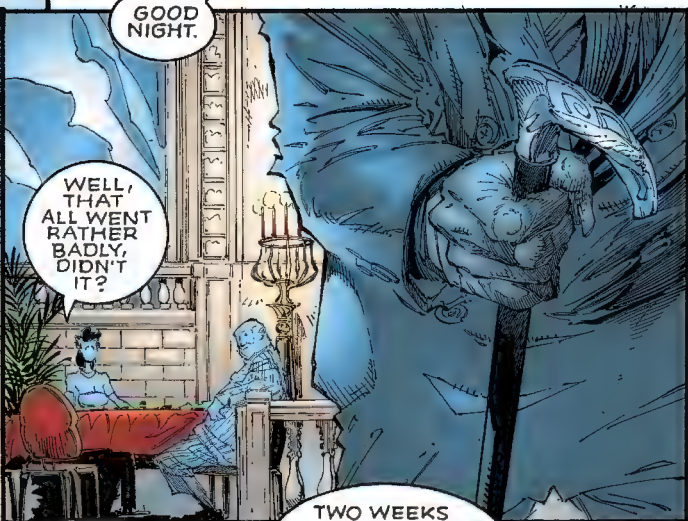
WELL, THAT ALL WENT RATHER BADLY, DIDN'T IT?

DID YOU ENJOY YOUR MEAL, SIR?

IT WAS PASSABLE.

Um... LISTEN... WHAT YOU WERE SAYING EARLIER... uh... ABOUT MY **FUTURE**.

I'M GOING TO DO YOU THE **FAVOR** OF BEING PERFECTLY **HONEST** WITH YOU, CARYN...



TWO WEEKS AFTER YOUR TWENTY-SIXTH BIRTHDAY, YOU WILL GO TO THE DOCTOR BELIEVING YOU ARE PREGNANT. INSTEAD YOU WILL BE SHOCKED TO LEARN YOU HAVE OVARIAN CANCER.

AT FIRST, THE DOCTORS WILL BE HOPEFUL. BUT THE CANCER WILL METASTASIZE RAPIDLY, SPREADING THROUGHOUT YOUR YOUNG BODY. YOUR BOYFRIEND WILL ABANDON YOU ONCE THINGS GET BAD.

WITHIN SEVEN MONTHS YOU WILL DIE ALONE, NEVER HAVING MARRIED OR BIRTHED A CHILD OR HAVING DONE ANYTHING REMOTELY MEANINGFUL WITH YOUR LIFE.

THAT, MY DEAR, IS YOUR **FUTURE**.

HAVE A PLEASANT EVENING.





LOOK,
I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU WANT, BUT
WHATEVER IT IS,
JUST TAKE IT
AND GET
OUTTA HERE.
OKAY?

I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOUR
FACE BUDDY,
SO I CAN'T
IDENTIFY YOU
OR NOTHING...
JUST-- JUST
DON'T
HURT ME!
PLEASE!



YOU WANT
MY WALLET? IT'S
RIGHT THERE ON
THAT TABLE. I AIN'T
GOT MUCH, BUT YOU
TAKE IT, OKAY? WE
COOL? WHATEVER
YOU WANT. AND
THEN WE'LL JUST
FORGET ALL
ABOUT THIS.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?
Huh? GET
BACK!

WHAT
THE HELL
DO YOU
WANT
FROM
ME?!



**HELP!
HELP!
SOMEONE
PLEASE HELP
ME! CALL
THE COPS!
HELP!!**




Oh,
JEEZ.
NO...



I WASN'T
GOING TO HURT
HER. I SWEAR.
JUST TRYING TO
TEACH HER SOME
RESPECT, YOU
KNOW?

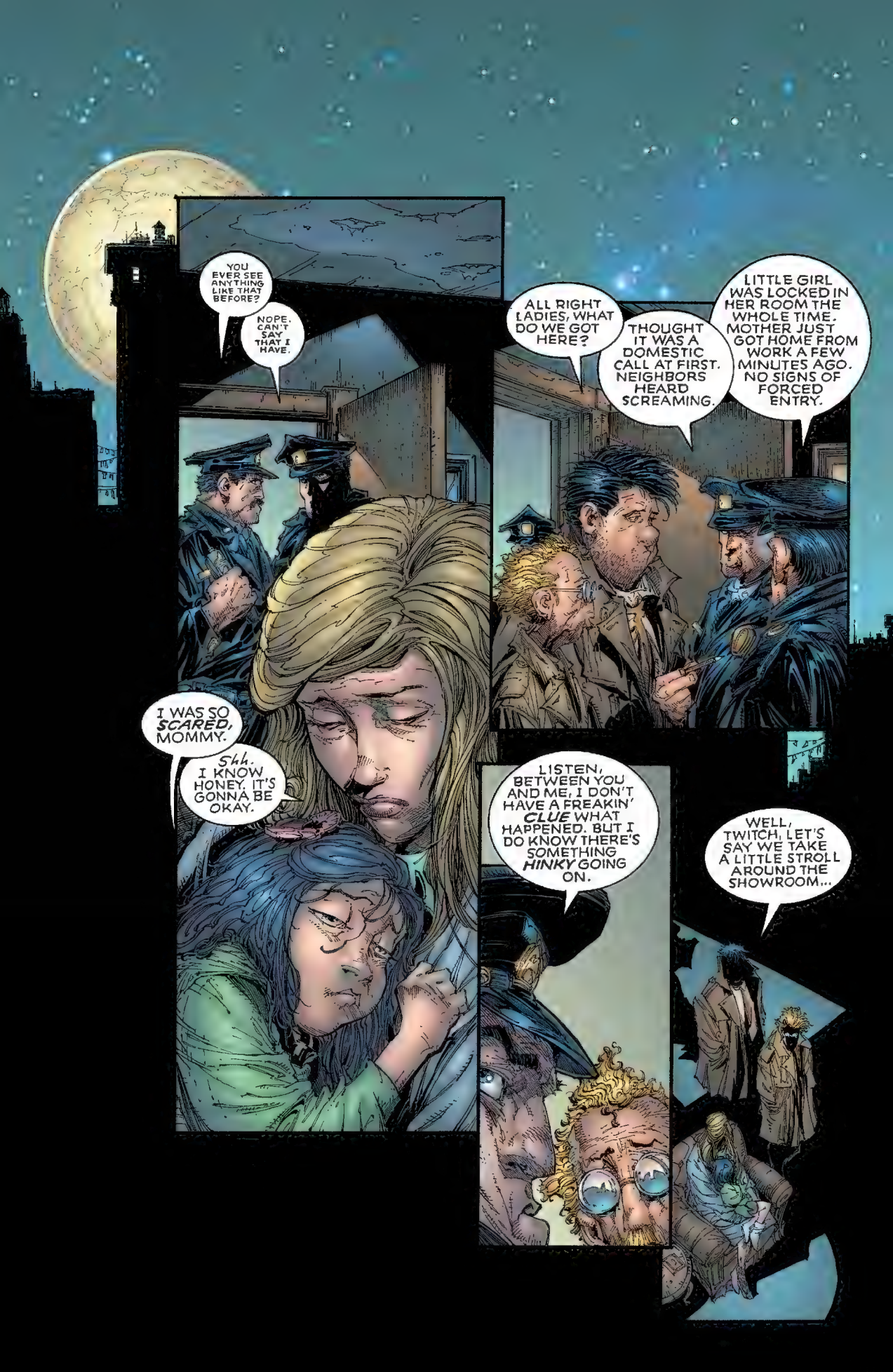


YOU
BELIEVE
ME,
DON'T
YOU?



I MEAN,
YOU KNOW
KIDS TODAY.
YOU'VE GOTTA
BE FIRM, RIGHT?
I SWEAR I WAS
JUST GOING TO
SCARE HER. YOU
KNOW, TEACH
HER A
LESSON.





YOU
EVER SEE
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT
BEFORE?

NOPE.
CAN'T
SAY
THAT I
HAVE.

ALL RIGHT
LADIES, WHAT
DO WE GOT
HERE?

THOUGHT
IT WAS A
DOMESTIC
CALL AT FIRST.
NEIGHBORS
HEARD
SCREAMING.

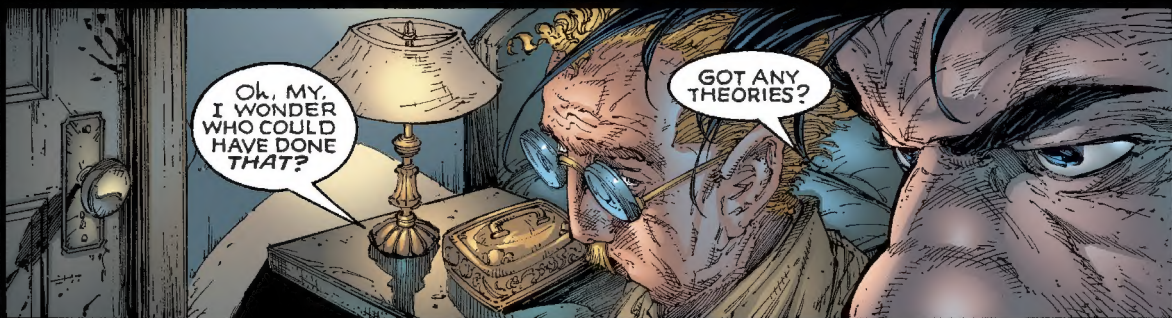
LITTLE GIRL
WAS LOCKED IN
HER ROOM THE
WHOLE TIME.
MOTHER JUST
GOT HOME FROM
WORK A FEW
MINUTES AGO.
NO SIGNS OF
FORCED
ENTRY.

I WAS SO
SCARED,
MOMMY.

Shh.
I KNOW
HONEY, IT'S
GONNA BE
OKAY.

LISTEN,
BETWEEN YOU
AND ME, I DON'T
HAVE A FREAKIN'
CLUE WHAT
HAPPENED. BUT I
DO KNOW THERE'S
SOMETHING
HINKY GOING
ON.

WELL,
TWITCH, LET'S
SAY WE TAKE
A LITTLE STROLL
AROUND THE
SHOWROOM...



WELL, MY **BEST** GUESS IS THAT THIS FINE, UPSTANDING CITIZEN HERE HAD A LITTLE TOO MUCH TO DRINK. HE TRIPS ON THE DOLL, HURTLES FORWARD AND IMPALES HIMSELF ON THE TELEVISION AERIAL.

MY THOUGHTS, EXACTLY, FINE POLICE WORK, DETECTIVE.

THANK YOU, DETECTIVE.



WE'RE LABELING THIS AN ACCIDENT. WAIT TILL THE MEAT WAGON COMES FOR THE BODY AND THEN YOU CAN LEAVE.

SERIOUS? POOR BASTARD ENDS UP AS A HUMAN KEBOB AND YOU'RE THINKING MISHAP? WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR...

OFFICER, PLEASE. WE'VE BEEN AROUND. WE'VE SEEN THIS KIND OF THING BEFORE. IT'S ACTUALLY NOT AT ALL UNCOMMON.

YEAH. HAPPENS ALL THE TIME. HAPPENED TO MY COUSIN ONCE.

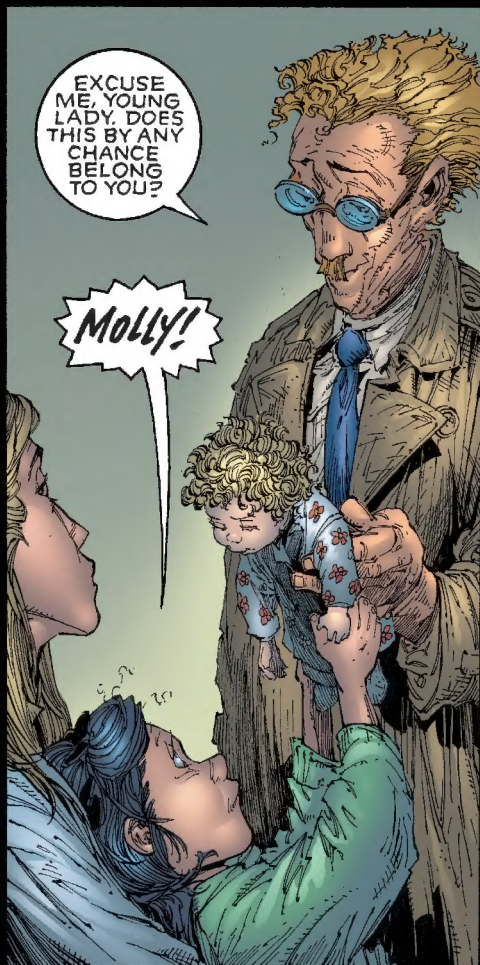
YOU GENTLEMEN HAVE A GOOD NIGHT NOW.

EXCUSE ME, YOUNG LADY. DOES THIS BY ANY CHANCE BELONG TO YOU?

Molly!

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US, DETECTIVE?

I THINK WE'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA WHAT REALLY HAPPENED, MA'AM. NOTHING YOU NEED WORRY ABOUT. DO YOU HAVE SOME PLACE YOU CAN STAY TONIGHT?



*I didn't tell
my mommy
about the man
in the cape.
Or about the
kids in my
closet.*

*Or about losing my Molly.
I think it's okay not to tell her.*

*Mommy says
things are going
to be different
now. Better.
I believe her.*

*Maybe
God does
work in
mysterious
ways.*

But He's not the only one.



*The
END.*



Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE